

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9170

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1570

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, SP
SUBJECT: US/SPANISH NUCLEAR COOPERATION -REPROCESSING OF FUEL

REF: MADRID 1210, STATE 33128

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS SENT US UNEXPECTEDLY A NOTA
VERBAL DATED FEB. 24 ON SPANISH POSITION REGARDING
REPROCESSING OF NUCLEAR FUEL. NOTE, AS INFORMALLY
TRANSLATED BY EMBASSY, READ AS FOLLOWS:

2. "THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS IT
COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA IN MADRID AND WITH REFERENCE TO THE RECENT
CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE ABMASSADOR OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
INTERNAIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION, HAS THE HONOR
TO REFER TO THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION THAT HAS
EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN THE FIELD
OF PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. THE GOVERNMENT
OF SPAIN RECOGNIZES THAT NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN
NATIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN SUCH A WAY
AS TO AVOID THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
CONSEQUENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN WISHES
TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA THAT IS IS PREPARED TO STUDY WITH THAT
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GOVERNMENT THE ADOPTION OF ADEQUATE PROCEDURES
FOR THE REALIZATION OF SUCH PURPOSES.
IN THIS SENSE AND DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS,
THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN WILL CONSULT AND ARRIVE AT
AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
STATES ON THE INSTALLATIONS IN WHICH IT MAY CARRY
OUT THE REPROCESSING OR ALTERNATION OF IRRADIATED

FUEL ELEMENTS IN NUCLEAR REACTORS SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES.

WITHIN THIS SIX-MONTH PERIOD, BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WHICH, WITH PRECISE GUARANTEES, WILL NOT ENTAIL AN OBSTACLE FOR SPANISH ECONOMIC OR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, INCLUDING THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS.

THIS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE TO THE EMBASSY THE ASSURANCE OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. MADRID, FEBRUARY 24, 1977."

2. BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR US, AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION BARROSO TO EXPRESS SURPRISE THAT NOTE HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING PRIOR TO FURTHER WORD FROM US FOLLOWING CONVERSATION REPORTED IN MADRID 1163.

3. BARROSO EXPLAINED THAT THE MINISTRY HAD SENT THE NOTE IN THE BELIEF THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO US AS A MORE FORMAL EXPRESSION OF SPANISH VIEWS. HE MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT GOS WAS OPEN TO FURTHER NEGOTIATION ON THE SUBJECT, BUT WITHIN THE LIMITS THAT THE SPANISH COULD NOT AGREE TO AN OPEN-ENDED INTERIM COMMITMENT REGARDING REPROCESSING WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO A TIME FRAME FOR THE RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT. BARROSO SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT US POLICY CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITIONS ON NUCLEAR QUESTIONS HAD NOT YET BEEN REFINED, BUT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING AND THE RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT COULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE.

4. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD BARROSO THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE DEPARTMENT WHILE IN WASHINGTON. EATON

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